

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
MICHAEL E. HENRY
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK REGULAR SESSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Spratt. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer by Councilmember Cephas the roll call was taken. Councilmembers Adams, Cephas, Durham, Henry and Nordstrom were present as well as Mayor Spratt, Clerk Avery and Town Attorney Vinson.

Approval of the minutes from the August 13th, 2012 meetings was called for. Councilmember Nordstrom made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Henry and passed 5 in favor, none opposed. Councilmember Nordstrom made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular session, seconded by Councilmember Durham and passed 5 in favor, none opposed.

Councilmember Durham made a motion to approve the agenda for the regular session, following a second by Councilmember Adams the agenda was approved 5 in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Spratt reported that she was excited about three new businesses in town. The Mayor introduced Jay Hubbard and his wife, Christie, as owners of Daystar Manufacturing, a plastic injection molding company. The business is located in the vacant building in the Industrial Park. Mr. Hubbard gave a brief description of the business and said that they are at the point of becoming operational. The Mayor also explained about Gunderson Auto Parts on

S. Main Street and Gary Bostwick opening a custom wood working shop in the old Napa building. Mayor Spratt reported that the plans for Fall Fest are coming together and is very excited about the many events, Hurlock's Got Talent competition and the pie contest. Fall Fest activities are to start Friday evening with the first round of the talent competition. The Mayor also mentioned that applications for the competition are available at the Town Office. Some residents have reported that the trash company has not been picking up grass clippings, it is not their responsibility. The Town will pick up bagged clippings on Thursdays. Residents need to call the office and be put on a pickup list, there will be no charge to residents, and also they were asked not to blow clippings into the streets. Mayor Spratt reminded residents that the Bay Fee on the sewer bill doubled effective July 1, 2012 due to State requirements. Those fees are pass through funds and the Town has no control over the regulation of those fees. A question was posed by one resident in attendance regarding the large pile of trash in the driveway of 101 Miner Road. Clerk Avery responded that the owner had been notified and it would be removed during the current week.

County Councilmember Rick Price made his report to the Town Council. The County Council had a public hearing and passed ordinances regarding a grass and weeds bill for areas up to 2 acres and an ordinance regarding removal of sunken vessels, if after proper notice to the owner and no response the County will have the ability to remove the vessel and bill the owners. Mr. Price reported that in FY13 30 miles of County roads are scheduled for tar and chip, 20 miles for hot mix and 8 miles for dry patch. Repaving projects are down substantially due to the large reduction in highway user fees. Mr. Price reported that Maryland Environmental Services has been awarded a contract to cap a cell at Beulah landfill. Mr. Price reported that there have been a few cases of West Nile Virus reported on the Delmarva Peninsula. He stated that the next County Council meeting is September 18, 2012 and representatives from SHA will be at the November 13th meeting to discuss highway needs in the County for FY14.

A question came from the audience asking if anyone had heard anything about Hurlock Village Apartments going into foreclosure. Councilmember Cephas responded he did have knowledge and thought the residents would be okay.

Chief Hutton gave the police department report and stated that October 1st the vehicle law regarding motor scooters will go into effect. The law requires that scooters must be licensed and insured and that helmets and eye protection are required for riders. Copies of the law are available on the press table. Chief Hutton reported that there will be a post set up at the train station September 29th for collection of unwanted or outdated drugs. The purpose is to keep drugs from being disposed of in toilets or landfills. The collection is being sponsored and funded by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. Hurlock resident, Mr. Jack Rossi, asked the Chief if the Town had a crime problem that he had reports that indicated Hurlock did have a crime problem and asked how the residents could be notified so they would be more aware. The Chief stated that according to a recent report the crime rate in Hurlock was no worse than surrounding jurisdictions and in most cases much lower. The Chief said that residents need to call when

they see a potential problem or an incident occur, he said in many cases they find out days later when it is too late to do anything about it. The Mayor reiterated that people must call the department immediately so the police are aware. The Mayor said that the department has undergone a turnaround under Chief Hutton. The Mayor asked Mr. Rossi to talk to the Chief. Councilmember Cephas said a man's house is his castle, Mr. Rossi was attacked in his property, he also said that he is in support of the Police Department and that the Chief has done a good job. The Chief stated that he wants more citizen involvement in town. Councilmember Adams added that now is a good time to work together, it would be good to have a crime watch program. Earl Murphy spoke about the Woodsedge crime watch program and the police department helped to set it up. Councilmember Nordstrom added "call the police". Chief Hutton explained an attempted breaking and entering call they had gotten the preceding Friday night. Hurlock police was assisted by the County Sheriffs and the Maryland State Police. After further investigation it was found that there was not an attempt to break in and charges were not filed.

Jerry Rhue reported that the fire department has been very busy with ambulance calls and everything is on track with the department for Fall Festival.

Mr. Earl Murphy in his report on the progress of plans for the fall festival stated that Pro Parties will have bounce rides set up for kids and that he has offered a table for the new business Daystar Manufacturing to display what the business does. Mr. Murphy described some of the many events and that the bands Blackwater and Journey will be performing and Holiday the Clown will also be participating. Hay rides will be from noon to 2:00 P.M. for kids and there will be many food vendors.

Mr. Bovankovitch asked Mr. Murphy about the Memorial Park. Mr. Murphy stated that he is in the process of raising funds for construction and further explained about the flag poles and how they would lit by solar power form lights on top of the poles. He is hoping to have the dedication following the Christmas Parade.

6:50 P.M. Old Business – Town Attorney Vinson described the proposed charter change to change the frequency of Town Meetings to no less than once ((twice)) a month. Councilmember Adams made a motion to approve the charter change, with a second by Councilmember Nordstrom. Under discussion Councilmember Nordstrom explained that if on occasion there was one meeting in any given month the Town would not be in violation of the charter. The Mayor reiterated the intent is to have two meetings per month. Councilmember Durham affirmed that if there are not two meetings it will be advertised to that affect. The Question was put to a vote with Councilmembers Adams, Durham, Henry and Nordstrom voting in favor and Councilmember Cephas voting opposed. The motion passed 4 ayes and 1 nay.

Question to the Mayor, will there be two meetings in September, the answer was yes the next meeting will be September 24th.

New Business - Planning and Zoning Administrator explained a request from Habitat for Humanity's to abate property taxes for the two lots they own on Jackson Street. Mr. Avery explained what Talbot County and Cambridge's policies are. Both abate taxes until property is developed and transferred to a new owner. Councilmember Nordstrom motioned to approve abatement for a period of five years or until the property is transferred, whichever occurs first. Councilmember Henry seconded. Under discussion Councilmember Adams asked was this the same as the re-subdivision, the answer was no there was some confusion as to what he meant. The motion was put to a vote; Councilmembers Durham, Henry and Nordstrom voted aye with Councilmember Adams voting nay and Councilmember Cephas abstained. The motion passed 3 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstained.

Attorney Vinson explained a resolution to opt out of the State mandated sprinkler system requirement for new single and two family homes. In order for the new homes in the Town to be exempt the Town has opt out of the requirement by October 1, 2012. Councilmember Durham motioned to opt out of the State requirement with a second by Councilmember Nordstrom. Following a very brief discussion the motion was put to a vote; Councilmembers Adams, Durham, Henry and Nordstrom voted aye with Councilmember Cephas abstaining. The motion passed 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

On an agenda request to speak regarding trash service in Town, Mrs. O'Neil was not in attendance.

7:00 P.M. The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Spratt.

Respectively submitted;


John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

*Approved in regular session
9/24/12 4/0*